

Part of the FCC's charter is to protect the interests of the public. The airwaves belong to the public, they are administered by the FCC in the public trust.

The airwaves are not currently being adequately administered. The public trust is hardly being protected. We need freedom of speech, diverse, vigorous, locally produced programming. We need freedom from the suffocating grip of corporate media magnates. The news is not the news any more; it is 'spin' from 'embedded reporters.' That's right. We don't just have embedded reporters in the military, we have them at every level of government. The mainstream media delivers what huge government and corporate interests wish for us to think, not the actual news, not the actual facts. This is not news, and this is not free speech.

Without an informed populace, we do not have a democracy. Slackening rules on Broadcast ownership will only speed up the process we currently are trying to stop --- that of "Big Brother", that of an ignorant, uninformed, apathetic, listless populace. That of corporate control. We don't want these things. We must fight them. I say *strengthen* the rules on Broadcast ownership, don't weaken them. Support publicly produced, independent media. Support free speech. End corporate media control.

The future of this country, and hence of the world, depends on this action. I would like to hear from the FCC on what they have decided to do on this issue. It is a deal that must be stopped. Media cronies cannot exercise control over what the public knows and feels about government. That is not a democracy.